

UCRL-JC-119112 Abstract  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEN-YEAR PLAN FOR THE  
U. S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM

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The U. S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) was established in 1989 (FY-90) with the goal of improving the predictive understanding of the Earth system in support of national and international policymaking activities. Under the auspices of the interagency Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES) of the Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET), the program combines the efforts of eleven departments and agencies of the Federal government to reduce uncertainties and improve confidence in knowledge concerning the natural and human-induced changes now occurring in the Earth's life-sustaining environmental envelope. Over the USGCRP's first four years, the program has been implemented through a priority-driven scientific research agenda that has been designed to be integrated, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary. The program has been designed explicitly to address uncertainties in such areas as climate change, ozone depletion, changes in terrestrial and marine productivity, global water and energy cycles, sea level changes, the impact of global change on human health and activities, and the impact of anthropogenic activities on the Earth system.

The Global Change Research Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-606) requires the development of a "National Global Change Research Plan" every three years. The plan is intended to lay out the goals and priorities for Federal global change research with a ten-year time horizon, describing specific programs and activities, including data collection, information management, predictive modeling, and research efforts, and providing an implementation plan. The USGCRP is now in the process of preparing this plan. Administration guidance calls for the 10-year program to expand the research scope of such program aspects as natural and societal impacts, to improve the integration of research with policymaking, and to build the basis for comprehensive assessments

of strategies and technologies for identifying and evaluating sound policies on global change.

In support of this effort, the USGCRP agencies, working with the newly established Office of the USGCRP, are in the process of developing the required plan. Activities have included carrying out a review of existing USGCRP programs, working in cooperation with committees of the National Research Council to identify and prioritize scientific questions and uncertainties, reviewing guidance provided in assessments and recommendations put forth by the IPCC and other scientific groups and committees, and seeking input from the policy analysis community. The status of the progress made in developing the new ten-year plan will be reviewed. Over the next several months there is expected to be an intensive public review of the draft plan by groups including the scientific community, policymakers, and others whose interests include the potential for and implications of global change. This presentation is intended to provide an opportunity for early input by AMS members.

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